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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AD 868462

AGDA (M) (17 Apr 70)

FOR OT UT 701186

27 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 68th Medical Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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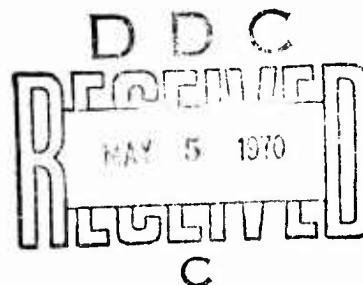
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UNCLASSIFIED REPORT
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(ARMY) ATTN: FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 68TH MEDICAL GROUP
APO 96491

AVBJ GD-PO

5 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned Headquarters, 68th Medical Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

THRU: Commanding General
44th Medical Brigade
ATTN: AVBJ PO
APO 96384

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Organization and Mission:

(1) During the period 1 November 1969 through 31 January 1970, the 68th Medical Group fulfilled its mission of providing Field-Army level medical support to United States Army personnel, Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel, Civilian War Casualty patients, and such other categories of personnel as directed by higher headquarters. Included in its tasks were command and control of 65 assigned units at the end of the report period.

(2) In accomplishing its mission, the 68th Medical Group exercised responsibility for the II (South), III and IV Corps Tactical Zones, within the tactical area of operational interest of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 199th Light Infantry Brigade (Sep), 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, 1st Australian Task Force, Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment, 9th Republic of Korea Division, and 1/50th Mechanized Infantry.

(3) In support of its area of responsibility, the 68th Medical Group operated three evacuation hospitals, three surgical hospitals, two field hospitals, two medical battalions, one air ambulance company with six attached helicopter ambulance detachments, three medical companies (ground ambulance), one convalescent center, two medical companies (clearing),

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one preventive medicine unit with two attached detachments and numerous other specialized units. The 68th Medical Group continued to insure optimal performance by these subordinate units through inspections and liaison visits as necessary to deal with operational problems.

b. Personnel and Administration.

(1) During the reporting period, the 68th Medical Group headquarters continued to be staffed at an average strength of 13 officers and 39 enlisted men. Turnover of personnel was normal: 5 officers, 15 enlisted men departed the unit; 3 officers and 18 enlisted men were newly assigned.

(2) Key personnel in the administration of the Group during the reporting period were as follows:

(a) Commanding Officer: David J. Edwards, COL, MC, 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(b) Executive Officer: Donald C. Roake, LTC, MSC, 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(c) S-1: Jack R. Wilson, II, MAJ, MSC, 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(d) S-3: James E. Cantrell, MAJ, MSC, 1 November 1969 - 12 January 1970.
Robert D. Conklin, MAJ, MSC, 13 January 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(e) S-4: Colbert L. Flanery, LTC, MSC, 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(f) CSM: John R. Smith, CSM, 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(3) The morale of the Group continued to be excellent. No courts-martial action and only one article 15 were administered in the command headquarters. Seven Bronzo Star Medals, six Army Commendation Medals and one Certificate of Achievement were awarded to personnel assigned to this headquarters during the period.

(4) Morale and Welfare: The following awards and decorations were sent forward on personnel of the command during the reporting period:

	Approved and Presented	Pending
Silver Star	5	7
Distinguished Flying Cross	18	14

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	<u>Approved and Presented</u>	<u>Pending</u>
Soldier's Medal	0	5
Legion of Merit	0	3
Bronze Star Medal	149	30
Air Medal	858	481
Army Commendation Medal	340	61
Purple Heart	2	2
Certificate of Achievement	47	14

(5) Discipline: No Summary Courts-Martial and 90 instances of non-judicial punishment (Article 15) were reported by units of the 68th Medical Group during the reporting period. Special Courts-Martial jurisdiction for the 68th Medical Group is vested in the Commanding Officer, Long Binh Post. Seventeen cases were referred through this headquarters to Long Binh Post for trial by Courts-Martial.

c. Operations:

(1) Operation of the Prisoner of War Hospital, Long Binh, Vietnam (operated by the 50th Medical Company (Clearing) during this report period) was discontinued on 31 December 1969. Medical care is now provided Prisoners of War (PCW) by the hospital nearest the point of capture or a specialized treatment facility if specialized treatment is required. POW patients are treated in 68th Medical Group hospitals, stabilized and evacuated to Vietnamese facilities as soon as the patient's condition permits. The 24th Evacuation Hospital presently operates two of the wards previously part of the Prisoner of War Hospital; however, the remainder of the facility has been (or is being) converted into an Out-patient clinic for the 24th Evacuation Hospital. Prisoners of War are provided medical treatment by the same personnel treating US patients.

(2) Personnel of the 36th Evacuation Hospital meeting redeployment criteria specified by higher headquarters departed Bien Hoa for CONUS on 28 November 1969. As a result of the inactivation of the 36th Evacuation Hospital on 28 November, the 247th Medical Detachment (Hol Amb) was re-located by the 44th Medical Brigade from the Vung Tau area to a location in II CTZ (South) and assigned to the 43d Medical Group on 25 November 1969.

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(3) Since the 50th Medical Company (Clr) ceased operation of the POW Hospital on 31 December 1969, two (2) platoons of the company have been redeployed to Binh Thuy to augment the 3d Surgical Hospital. The Headquarters and the 1st platoon will remain at Long Binh where the unit will operate a maintenance school for the 68th Medical Group. The unit will be reassigned from the 24th Evacuation Hospital to the 58th Medical Battalion in the near future.

(4) The following units were assigned to this headquarters from the 43d Medical Group by the 44th Medical Brigade effective 15 January 1970, and were further attached to units as indicated in inclosure 1 (list of units assigned as of 31 January 1970):

- (a) 6th Convalescent Center
- (b) 8th Field Hospital
- (c) 105th Medical Detachment (LA)
- (d) 247th Medical Detachment (RA)
- (e) 254th Medical Detachment (RA)
- (f) 61st Medical Battalion
- (g) 128th Medical Detachment (OA)
- (h) 136th Medical Detachment (MA)
- (i) 221st Medical Detachment (MB)
- (j) 241st Medical Detachment (MB)
- (k) 349th Medical Detachment (MB)
- (l) 418th Medical Company (AMB)
- (m) 568th Medical Company (Clearing)
- (n) 67th Medical Detachment (KF)
- (o) 98th Medical Detachment (KO)
- (p) 551st Medical Detachment (KH)
- (q) 575th Medical Detachment (MB)
- (r) 933d Medical Detachment (KE)

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(s) 945th Medical Detachment (KA)

(t) 440th Medical Detachment (RB)

(5) The following patient statistics portray the operations of 68th Medical Group facilities during the reporting period:

	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hospital Admissions	5063	5333	5023	15419
Outpatients	22214	21560	19907	63681
US Army WIA	729	659	598	1986
Other WIA	565	738	561	1864
Air Evacs (USAF)	914	1014	955	2883
Transfers In-Country	1156	1002	1005	3163
Return to Duty/Discharged	2867	3280	3072	9219
Deaths	122	128	93	343
Average Beds Occupied	1027	1096	1019	3142
Per Cent	66	62	58	

d. Improvements and Projects:

(1) In continuance of the self-help projects underway at the end of the previous quarters, the following have been accomplished: Renovation of the conference room to include enlargement, adequate lighting, and briefing charts; personnel passive-defensive bunkers were reconstructed from salvaged materiel to accomodate troop personnel; and a new hot water heater was installed to provide warm water for sanitary purposes.

(2) During the past quarter, plans for the reconstruction of the shower area and water tower were submitted; both projects are awaiting materiel.

e. Aviation Activities:

(1) During the ninety-two (92) day reporting period, the 45th Medical Company (Air Amb) and attached detachments provided aeromedical support to the United States Military Forces and certain other Vietnamese and Free World Military Assistance Forces personnel in the II CTZ (South), III and IV Corps Tactical Zones. As a result of the phasing out of the 43d Medical Group, a large portion of II CTZ was added to the company area of aeromedical evacuation responsibility. The 254th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) located at Nha Trang and the 247th Medical Detachment located at Phan Rang, formally attached to the 498th Medical Company (Air Amb), were attached to the 45th Medical Company (Air Amb) on 15 January 1970 and remain at these two sites. The remainder of the Company's base sites have not changed; the 57th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) remains at Lai Kho, the 82d Medical

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Detachment (Hel Amb) at Navy Binh Thuy Air Base and the 159th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) at Cu Chi. From the base sites, strategic "stand-by" aircraft are deployed to provide more expedient and efficient aero-medical support. Stand-by locations are as follows: Tay Ninh, Dau Tieng, Tuy Hoa, Ban Me Thuot, Bao Loc, Phan Thiet, Xuan Loc, Nui Dat, Saigon, Tan An and Binh Thuy, the latter augmenting the 32d Medical Detachment (Hel Amb). Patient loads increased by 5 per cent over the last quarter as enemy activity increased.

(2) Patient evacuation statistics for the quarter are as follows:

	<u>1 - 30 Nov 69</u>	<u>1 - 31 Dec 69</u>	<u>1 - 31 Jan 70</u>	<u>Average Last Quarter</u>
US	2783	3034	2620	2812
FWMAF	124	250	208	194
ARVN	3460	3741	4311	3837
VC	118	329	91	197
VN CIV	1338	1698	1288	1441
OTHER	<u>410</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>276</u>
TOTAL	8233	9298	8690	9739

*Note: Figures include patients evacuated by the 247th Medical Detachment and the 254th Medical Detachment for the full quarter.

	<u>1 - 30 Nov 69</u>	<u>1 - 31 Dec 69</u>	<u>1 - 31 Jan 70</u>	<u>Average</u>
Average Aviator Time	70	80	82	77
Average Aircraft Availability	79	71	77	76

Increased activity in the dense jungle area near Xuan Loc and Dau Tieng has caused a 109 percent increase in hoist missions over the last quarter. The hoist missions continue to be hazardous at best, but the hoist has proven to be definitely indispensable in jungle areas.

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f. Preventive Medicine Activities:

(1) During the period 1 November 1969 through 31 January 1970, the 20th Preventive Medicine Unit continued to fulfill its mission of providing comprehensive preventive medicine support to all US and Allied Forces in III and IV CTZ in the areas of environmental sanitation, entomology and veterinary medicine. In addition, direct support was extended to various units in II Corps South upon request. Ten sections and sub-sections rely directly on the headquarters section for direct support in III CTZ.

(2) During this period, the 20th Preventive Medicine Unit moved from Bien Hoa to Long Binh. This transition presented certain problems, especially with moving mess equipment and the motor pool; however, all problems encountered were solved and there was no need for mission stand-down during the period.

(3) The survey section has begun a project to determine the effectiveness of aerial insecticide spraying. This will include both the C-123 and helicopter spraying. Adult and larval mosquito surveys will be conducted before and after spraying to determine effectiveness.

(4) The initial test program on the Long Binh Sewage Lagoon was completed during the reporting period. This test program was designed to provide information on the operation of sewage lagoons in the tropics under various loading conditions; the maximum organic/hydraulic loading in aerobic lagoons at various water depths; the effect of effluent recirculation on aerobic lagoons; and the performance of anaerobic lagoons in the tropics. The environmental sanitation section has undertaken a number of projects pertaining to industrial hygiene. Included in these projects are noise abatement and radiation surveys.

(5) The veterinary section began investigations on the properties of poisonous seasnake venom with relation to the production of a small quantity of seasnake anti-venin. Since none is available through Army supply channels and indigenous persons die each year from this reptile, it is imperative that military personnel be protected in case of an accident. A cooperative project coordinated through the 4th Medical Detachment has been proposed to conduct rabies vaccination clinics in hamlets and villages surrounding military base camps. This will be conducted in an attempt to reduce the rabies reservoir in domestic animals and thereby decrease the number of military personnel who undergo rabies prophylaxis.

(6) The survey section is developing an insectary. When this is complete, this unit will have the capability of rearing mosquitoes and other insects for study and insecticides resistance testing. The unit aerial insecticide spray program is continuing to expand as more targets in IV CTZ are being added. Ground spray operations are also being directed toward new targets.

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(7) Sanitation surveys were performed at all major installations in III and IV Corps. The surveys included but were not limited to, field sanitation teams, swimming pools, sanitary landfills, waste disposal facilities, grease traps, water treatment facilities, and area drainage. Quarterly sanitation and hygiene inspections of MACV Advisory Teams at RVNAF training centers were initiated during the reporting period. Sixteen RVNAF training centers were inspected. Infectious waste inspections were performed at all dispensaries and hospitals assigned to 68th Medical Group in III and IV CTZ. The purpose of the surveys were to determine the method and equipment used to dispose of infectious waste.

(8) During this period a significant quantity of venom from various species of poisonous snakes indigenous to Vietnam has been collected and stored. Preliminary investigations are being conducted to determine the toxicity of these venoms as well as the effectiveness of important anti-venins. An investigation was conducted to determine the identity of the offending agent in twenty-one reported "poisonous seasnake" bites in Vung Tau. It was concluded that no seasnakes were involved, but rather the injuries were inflicted by stingrays.

g. Communications:

(1) On 15 January 1970, arrangements were made with the Communications Officer, 44th Medical Brigade to include the following units in the 68th Medical Group SSB radio nets:

- (a) 61st Medical Battalion
- (b) 128th Medical Detachment (OA)
- (c) 136th Medical Detachment (MA)
- (d) 568th Medical Company (Clearing)
- (e) 6th Convalescent Center
- (f) 8th Field Hospital
- (g) 247th Medical Detachment (HA)
- (h) 254th Medical Detachment (HA)

(2) Due to the increased land area encompassed by the 68th Medical Group's new area of responsibility, plans have been initiated to request dedicated circuits from Headquarters 68th Medical Group to the 8th Field Hospital and the 6th Convalescent Center in order to have a back-up means of communication. Plans have also been initiated to install a dedicated

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circuit to the 1st Australian Field Hospital in Vung Tau. This latter circuit will facilitate coordination between the 1st Australian Field Hospital and the MRO, 68th Medical Group.

(3) At the end of the report period, the Nestor program for communications security is still in the initial phase of implementation at the 68th Medical Group. The Group Command bunker has been approved as a crypto-facility and a Nestor account number has been assigned to the 68th Medical Group. However, the crypto equipment has not as yet been acquired.

h. Food Service Activities:

(1) The 68th Medical Group Food Service Section made 102 liaison visits to subordinate units during the report period. The units served approximately 223,350 rations to non-patients. Patients were served approximately 19,852 rations in the hospital mess halls while 71,407 rations were served on the wards and 10,871 rations of modified diets were served. The total number of rations served by 68th Medical Group mess halls was 325,148 rations. The 20th Preventive Medicine Unit began operations in a new mess hall on Long Binh Post on 26 November 1969. The 50th Medical Company (Clearing) ceased operations after the supper meal on 23 January 1970. The equipment from the 50th Medical Company (Clearing) was laterally transferred to other 68th Medical Group units.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None.

b. Intelligence: None.

c. Operations:

(1) Internal Rescue Hoist Operations:

(a) Observations: Rescue hoist malfunctions have been a major problem during the period resulting in low availability due to maintenance. The malfunctions have also delayed evacuation of seriously wounded patients on numerous occasions.

(b) Evaluation: An average of twelve (12) malfunctions per month resulted while operating the hoist at fast speed as prescribed by the operator's manual. During December, as a trial period the 57th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) operated unit hoists at slow speed in an effort to arrive at a possible solution. The unit surprisingly experienced no malfunctions after having conducted one-hundred and forty-one (141) hoist missions and hoisting two-hundred and fifty-eight (258) casualties. The

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unit also implemented a two (2) week training program for all crew members who were to operate the hoists. Training emphasized maintaining maximum pressure on the cable as the pick-up device was lowered to the ground and retracting the patient at slow speed. Further, each hoist was limited to three (3) hoist extractions before undergoing a thorough inspection.

(c) Recommendations: That this procedure and the above training points for operating the hoist be utilized in the future.

d. Organization: None.

e. Training: None.

f. Logistics: None.

h. Material: None.

i. Other:

(1) Advisory Living Facilities:

(a) Observations: Many of the MACV teams, living in French villas, have only two compartment sinks for cleaning cooking utensils.

(b) Evaluation: These facilities are not adequate from a preventive medicine standpoint.

(c) Recommendation: Utensils should be washed in heated water containing soap and other detergents, rinsed in hot water, and immersed for not less than one (1) minute in a sanitizing solution (containing at least 50/ppm of available chlorine) prepared by following the instructions on the package of Disinfectant, Food Service, Chlorine.


(2) Feeding Vietnamese Patients at the Anderson Clinic, 3d Surgical Hospital:

(a) Observations: The Vietnamese patients at the Anderson Clinic, located in a part of the facility now operated by the 3d Surgical Hospital, were having difficulty using a knife, fork and spoon while eating. Some patients were using their fingers.

(b) Evaluation: Chopsticks were acquired for use on the Vietnamese wards. The first day the patients received the chopsticks they refused to use them. They wanted bowls, not plates, if they were going to use chopsticks.

(c) Recommendation: Bowls and chopsticks should be acquired for Vietnamese patients.

1 Incl
List of Assigned Units



DAVID J. EDWARDS
COL, MC
Commanding

AVBJ PO (5 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned Headquarters, 68th Medical Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, Headquarters, US Army Medical Command, Vietnam (PROV), APO 96384 9 Mar 70

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC DST,
APO 96375

1. The subject report has been reviewed.
2. Reference paragraph 2c (1) and 2i (1). Concur. These lessons - Learned will be disseminated to other medical aviation units through Medical Command and USARV Commander's Notes.
3. Reference item concerning feeding Vietnamese patients at the Anderson Clinic, 3rd Surgical Hospital, paragraph 2i (1). Concur. Chopsticks are presently furnished for use by Vietnamese patients. The present soup bowl may be used to alleviate part of this problem.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


C. J. SHIVELY
COL, MSC
Chief of Staff

AVHGC-DST (5 Feb 70) 2d Ind

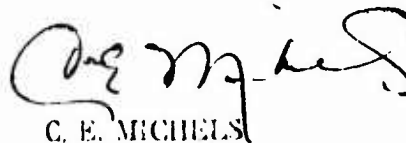
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned Headquarters, 68th Medical Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 16 MAR 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 68th Medical Group and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. E. MICHELS

MAJ. AGC

Adjutant General

Cy furn:

68th Med Group

US Army Med Comd

GPOP-DT (5 Feb 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 68th Medical Group for Period Ending
31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 01 MAR 70

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

L. D. Cline

D. D. CLINE

AGC

AG

LIST OF ASSIGNED UNITS

667th Med Co TM AC (Co Hq)

***2d Surgical Hospital**

***3d Field Hospital (Hq and HU)**
51st Field Hospital (Hq and 2HU)
62d Med Det TM KA (Surg)
84th Med Det TM OA (Disp)
218th Med Disp TM MC (Disp)
229th Med Det TM MC (Disp)
629th Med Det TM KP (Renal)
673d Med Det TM OA (Disp)

***3d Surgical Hospital**
43d Med Det (RB) (Amb)
346th Med Det TM MA (Disp)

***6th Convalescent Center**
136th Med Det (OA)
221st Med Det (MB)
349th Med Det (MB)

***8th Field Hospital**
67th Med Det (KF)
98th Med Det (KO)
440th Med Det (RB)
551st Med Det (KH)
575th Med Det (MB)
933d Med Det (KE)
945th Med Det (KA)

***12th Evacuation Hospital**

***20th Preventive Medicine Unit (Svc) (Fld)**
61st Med Det TM LB (Prev Med Survey)
105th Med Det TM LA (Prev Med Control)

***24th Evacuation Hospital**
16th Med Det TM MA (Disp)
104th Med Det TM KD (Maxillofacial)
930th Med Det TM MB (Disp)

***45th Medical Company (Air Amb)**
57th Med Det (RA) (Hel Amb)
82d Med Det (RA) (Hel Amb)
159th Med Det (RA) (Hel Amb)
247th Med Det (RA) (Hel Amb)
254th Med Det (RA) (Hel Amb)
551st Trans Corps Det (Hel Mnt)

Inclosure 1

LIST OF ASSIGNED UNITS

*45th Surgical Hospital

*50th Medical Company (Clr)

*58th Medical Battalion

- 2d Med Det TM MA (Disp)
- 25th Med Det TM MA (Disp)
- 61st Med Det TM MA (Disp)
- 128th Med Det (OA)
- 133d Med Det TM OA (Disp)
- 185th Med Det TM MA (Disp)
- 345th Med Det TM MB (Disp)
- 561st Medical Company (Amb)
- 498th Med Det (RE) (Amb Bus)
- 584th Medical Company (Amb)
- 439th Med Det (RE) (Amb Bus)
- 872d Med Det TM RE (Amb Bus)

*61st Medical Battalion

- 241st Med Det (MB)
- 418th Med Co (Amb)
- 568th Med Co (Clr)

*93d Evacuation Hospital

- 46th Med Det TM KB (Orthopedic)
- 53d Med Det TM KA (Surg)
- 194th Med Det TM MC (Disp)
- 332d Med Det TM MB (Disp)
- 935th Med Det TM KO (Psychiatric)

*Denotes Major Unit

Inclosure 1 (Continued)

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		UNCLASSIFIED	
		2b. GROUP	
3. REPORT TITLE			
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 68th Medical Group			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)			
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)			
CO, 68th Medical Group			
6. REPORT DATE		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
5 February 1970		18	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		8a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A		701186	
c.		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A		OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			

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DD FORM 1473
1 NOV 65

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 391-038 (4940)